

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /123 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK

SUBJECT: MUJIB ON PAKISTANI WAR CRIMES

1. IN MAJOR SPEECH MARCH 4 IN DAUDKANDI, MUJIB IS QUOTED BY LOCAL PRESS AS SAYING THAT PAKISTANIS MUST APOLOGIZE TO THE ALMIGHTY FOR CRIMES COMMITTED IN BANGLADESH AND ASK GOD'S MERCY. THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH, MUJIB REPORTEDLY SAID, KNOW HOW TO FORGIVE. STATING THAT HE HAD NO ENMITY TOWARD PAKISTAN, MUJIB SAID THAT HE WANTED TO SETTLE ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN THROUGH DISCUSSIONS.

2. COMMENTS: FERVOR OF MUJIB'S REMARKS ARE DIFFICULT TO JUDGE FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS WHICH QUOTE HIM VARIOUSLY AS COMMENTING ONLY ON "CRIMES COMMITTED" TO HIGHLY CHARGED ACCUSATIONS OF "GENOCIDE," "ATROCITIES," "BESTIAL CRUELTY," AND "INEXCUSABLE WRONGS." MUJIB'S SPEECH MAY PRESAGE A DEMAND THAT PAKISTAN FORMALLY APOLOGIZE IN RETURN FOR GETTING BACK THE 195 PRISONERS. HOWEVER, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT AT THIS STAGE MUJIB, WITH HIS REFERENCE TO THE ALMIGHTY, GOD'S MERCY AND THE BENGALIEE CAPACITY TO FORGIVE, IS CONCERNED WITH PREPARING HIS PUBLIC FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF THE WAR CRIMES TRIALS.

NEWBERRY

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Message Attributes

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